

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the pending claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of retrieving a complete copy of data from a plurality of stored copies of the data, the plurality of stored copies contained in a different set of ~~sectors~~storage locations in a ~~dis~~data storage system, the method comprising:

- (a) selecting one of the copies from the plurality of stored copies;
- (b) identifying defective ~~sectors~~storage locations in the selected copy;
- (c) locating replacement ~~sectors~~storage locations from the plurality of stored copies other than the selected copy; and
- (d) merging ~~sectors~~storage locations from the selected copy with replacement ~~sectors~~storage locations defining the complete copy.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) includes selecting one of the copies from the plurality of stored copies having a longest sequence of error free ~~sectors~~storage locations.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of stored copies of data comprises at least one defective ~~sector~~storage location from which data is not recoverable.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting one copy step (a) comprises:

- (a) (1) sequentially reading each ~~sector~~storage location of the set of ~~sectors~~storage locations from each of the plurality of stored copies;
- (a) (2) recording a number of error free ~~sectors~~storage locations read before a first defective ~~sector~~storage location is encountered when each of the plurality of copies is sequentially read in accordance with step (a) (1); and
- (a) (3) identifying one copy having a longest sequence of error free ~~sectors~~storage locations from the recorded number of error free ~~sectors~~storage locations corresponding to each copy of the plurality of stored copies.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the locating replacement ~~sectors~~storage locations step (c) is performed by locating the set of ~~sectors~~storage locations of at least one of the plurality of stored copies other than the selected copy, wherein the locating is restricted to reading ~~sectors~~storage locations within the set of ~~sectors~~storage locations that can replace defective ~~sectors~~storage locations identified in step (b).

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the merging ~~sector~~storage locations step (d) is performed in a buffer memory.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of stored copies is all contained on one disc surface.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein individual copies of the plurality of stored copies are distributed on different disc surfaces.

9.(Original) The method of claim 1, wherein individual copies of the plurality of stored copies are interleaved.

10.(Original) A disc drive storage system implementing the method of claim 1.

11.(Currently Amended) A ~~disc-driven~~data storage system, comprising:

at least one ~~rotatable disc~~storage medium having a ~~disc surface including a~~ plurality of stored copies of information, with information of each of the plurality of stored copies contained in a different set of ~~sectors~~storage locations;

~~a transducer head configured to read data from the disc surface,~~ and

a controller configured to select one copy of the plurality of stored copies ~~from which information is recoverable,~~ and to identify defective ~~sectors~~storage locations in the selected copy, and to locate replacement ~~sectors~~storage locations from the other stored copies, and to merge ~~sectors~~storage locations from the selected copy with the replacement ~~sectors~~storage locations defining a complete copy of the stored information.

12.(Currently Amended) The ~~disc-driven~~data storage system of claim 11 wherein the controller is further adapted to select one copy of the plurality of stored copies having a longest sequence of error free ~~sectors~~storage locations.

13.(Currently Amended) The ~~disc-driven~~data storage system of claim 11 wherein each of the plurality of stored copies of

information comprises at least one defective ~~sector~~storage location from which data is not recoverable.

14.(Currently Amended) The ~~disc-drive~~data storage system of claim 11, wherein the controller is further adapted to sequentially read each ~~sector~~storage location from each of the plurality of stored copies, and to record a number of error free ~~sectors~~storage locations read before a first defective ~~sector~~storage location is encountered when each of the plurality of stored copies is read, and to identify the copy having a longest sequence of error free ~~sectors~~storage locations from the recorded number of error free ~~sectors~~storage locations corresponding to each copy of the plurality of stored copies.

15.(Currently Amended) The ~~disc-drive~~data storage system of claim 11, wherein the controller is further adapted to selectively read the set of ~~sectors~~storage locations of at least one of the plurality of stored copies other than the copy having a longest sequence of error free ~~sectors~~storage locations.

16.(Currently Amended) The ~~disc-drive~~data storage system of claim 11, further ~~including~~comprising a buffer memory to temporarily store the complete copy.

17.(Currently Amended) The ~~disc-drive~~data storage system of claim 11, wherein the plurality of stored copies is ~~all-contained~~ on one ~~disc-surface~~data storage medium.

18.(Currently Amended) The ~~disc-drive~~data storage system of claim 11, wherein individual copies of the plurality of stored copies are distributed on different ~~disc-surfaces~~data storage media.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~disc drive~~ data storage system of claim 11, wherein individual copies of the plurality of stored copies are interleaved.

20. (Currently Amended) A ~~disc driven~~ data storage system, comprising: for storing information on a surface of a rotating disc, the disc surface including a plurality of stored copies of information, with information of each of the plurality of stored copies contained in a different set of sectors, the system comprising:

~~— a transducer head configured to read information from the disc surface at least one storage medium having a plurality of stored copies of information, with information of each of the plurality of stored copies contained in a different set of storage locations; and~~
a controller means for selecting one copy of the plurality of stored copies from which information is recoverable, and for identifying defective ~~sectors~~ storage locations in the selected copy, and for locating replacement ~~sectors~~ storage locations from the other stored copies, and for merging ~~sectors~~ storage locations from the selected copy with the replacement ~~sectors~~ storage locations defining a complete copy of the stored information.